

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is herein amended. No new matter has been presented.

In Agari, an end seal 19 is disposed outside of end caps 5, and the end seal 19 which is consisted of an end core member 29 formed with an engagement hole 24 and a resilient member 31 fused to the end core member 29. Engagement portions 30 of an under seal 13 are fitted into the engagement hole 24. These structures are to absorb the difference of thermal expansion by temperature change against the under seal 13, the casing 2, and the end caps 5, and differ from the structure recited in claim 1 “opposite end surfaces of said foreign matter entry preventing plates (the under seal 13) in the longitudinal direction of said track rail being secured to the side surface of said outmost scrapers (the end seal 19)”.

Further, Agari discloses the end seal 19 corresponding to outmost scrapers disposed outmost among the end plates (the end caps 5), but lacks structure corresponding to lubricators, end seals and/or laminated contact scrapers recited in claim 1.

Moreover, Agari lacks “said outmost scrapers (the end seal 19) having side surfaces perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of said track rail, said side surfaces being larger in size than respective side surfaces of said moving block body (the casing 2), end plates (the end caps 5) and attachment devices except said outmost scrapers that are perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of said track rail so that end portions of said foreign matter entry preventing plates (the under seal 13) can be attached to the side surfaces of said outmost scrapers”.

In addition, Agari lacks “said foreign matter entry preventing plates (the under seal 13) each having a length in the longitudinal direction of said track rail that is equal to a total of lengths of

said moving block body and end plates in the longitudinal direction of said track rail and lengths of the attachment devices except said outermost scrapers in the longitudinal direction of said track rail” as shown in claim 1.

Furthermore, Obara discloses structure corresponding to lubricators and scrapers (end seals 17) of the attachment devices, as recited in claim 1, but lacks structure corresponding to neither foreign matter entry preventing plates nor end seals and/or laminated contact scrapers of the attachment devices.

From description above, comparing the claim 1 to Agari and Obara, Agari and Obara lack points of the claim 1 described below as (A), (B), (C), (D).

(A) Said attachment devices including at least one of a set of end seals and a set of laminated contact scrapers,

(B) Said outermost scrapers having side surfaces perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of said track rail, said side surfaces being larger in size than respective side surfaces of said moving block body, end plates and attachment devices except said outermost scrapers that are perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of said track rail so that end portions of said foreign matter entry preventing plates can be attached to the side surfaces of said outermost scrapers;

(C) Said foreign matter entry preventing plates each having a length in the longitudinal direction of said track rail that is equal to a total of lengths of said moving block body and end plates in the longitudinal direction of said track rail and lengths of the attachment devices except said outermost scrapers in the longitudinal direction of said track rail;

(D) Opposite end surfaces of said foreign matter entry preventing plates in the longitudinal direction of said track rail being secured to the side surfaces of said outermost scrapers.

Because claim 1 includes points (A), (B), (C), (D), which are not disclosed nor suggested, in Agari, Obara, or a combination thereof, it is possible to block foreign matter from entering the inside of the moving block body, end plates, lubricators, end seals and/or laminated contact scrapers constituting the entire guide apparatus. Consequently, it is possible to keep the plurality of rolling elements disposed in the rolling element recirculation passages maintenance-free, and smooth rolling for a long period of time. This is not able to be accomplished by the above-mentioned references, either alone or in combination.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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